

**Watson town Borough Council
Committee Meeting
January 28, 2013**

OPENING: The January 28, 2013 Watson town Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Harry Hefty, Jack Marshall, Ralph Young, Mary Phillips, Pat Yeager, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Public Works Supervisor Scott Winters and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE: Edie Moser said a Finance Meeting was held on Thursday, January 24, 2013. The new electric rate increase from Jim Harvilla was 6.5%. She did some calculating with the new rate increase versus the budgeted 11% electric rate increase. A “new/used” bucket truck was in the budget, so with the new rate increase of 6.5%, the Finance Committee needed to look at the budget again. Solicitor Tira confirmed for Edie that regarding the budget, real estate taxes cannot be changed but line items can be changed for electric. Harry Hefty said profit from electric was based on the 11% rate increase, thus if the electric rate increase drops, the Borough’s profit will drop as well. He said the new rate increase will not allow for the bucket truck. Approximately \$100,000.00 was budgeted based on the 11% electric rate increase. Edie said by reducing the electric rate increase to a 6.5%, \$167,000.00 will need cut from the electric budget. She said the reduction in the electric rate would amount to approximately 3 tax mills in Watson town. The 6.5% rate will only be in affect for 2013, next year the rate could change. Edie said the 11% electric rate increase would raise an average electric bill by \$20 and the 6.5% electric rate increase would raise an average electric bill by \$11. Pat Yeager said she would rather see everyone pay increased electric rates than increased real estate taxes. Jack Marshall said the bucket truck was a matter of safety for our electric employees. Council agreed to stay with the 11% electric rate increase. Harry Hefty also asked Edie to start the bucket truck purchase in motion by getting quotes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Edie said the Borough has 3 Sewer Capital Improvement C.D.’s coming due on February 2, 2013. The Council will need to make a motion whether to cash them, approximately \$257,000.00. The current balance on the Elm/Ash Street loan is approximately \$393,000.00 and it comes due on March 31, 2017. If Council designates some of the Sewer Capital Improvement money to go towards the Elm/Ash Street Loan, the 7.52% debt service will be removed from Borough real estate taxes. Solicitor Tira said the decision needs made as to where to put the money from the

C.D.'s before Milton takes over the sewer. A motion was made by Pat Yeager to cash the Certificate of Deposits at West Milton State Bank in the amount of \$257,000.00 plus interest and apply it to the Elm/Ash Street Loan. Edie is to get information regarding the Sewer Checking and Sewer Savings Account balances and Council will revisit this issue at the next meeting. A second was made by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

PERPETUAL CARE C.D.:

Edie Moser said the Perpetual Care C.D., in the amount of \$64,138.47 is due on February 2, 2013. Council needs to decide whether to let it there, for an additional 24 months earning .50% or move it into a regular savings account. Harry Hefty made a motion to move the Perpetual Care C.D. into the Perpetual Care Savings Account. After the purchase of a new lawnmower and repairs to the steps, some head stones and fencing, the balance will be reinvested. A second motion was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE:

Edie said she heard from The Hartman Agency regarding our high deductible health insurance, which renews on April 1, 2013. The premiums will only increase by 3%, though a 10% increase was in the budget. Council agreed to leave the health insurance with Highmark Blue Shield, at the Hartman Agency.

PERSONNEL:

Jack Marshall mentioned contract negotiations are being held tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

WEATHER RELATED STREET CONDITIONS:

Pat Yeager said she's receiving complaints regarding the street conditions during recent storms. People have safety concerns when they are leaving for work early in the morning. She also questioned today's storm and the condition of 3rd Street. Edie said the cops are making good decisions on weather related call outs. The crew needs time to get into town after being

called. Chief Derr said he will instruct his officers to call as soon as streets start getting bad instead of holding off.

STREETS:

Edie said she has talked with Bill Michael and sent 3 complaints to Tom Holleran about Vincent and Elm Streets. Tom Holleran assured Edie that their inspector, Kevin Nelson, was going to make sure the pot holes on Elm Street and Vincent were patched and fixed. President Miller spoke of the holes on First Street as well. Edie also noted that Bill Michael and Tom Holleran are having trouble with Doli. Edie said she has a job conference tomorrow and will find out where Doli is with these issues.

**CHAPTER
94 REPORT:**

Edie received an Agreement for Engineering Services from Uni-Tec regarding the Borough’s Chapter 94 Report. This report is required by DEP regarding our Annual Wasteload Management for 2012. In the past, Terry Mook took care of it. Though Mike Weaver will provide the information, Uni-Tec will prepare the report. Jack Marshall made a motion to authorize payment of \$1800.00 for Uni-Tec to prepare the 2012 Chapter 94 Report. Mary Phillips seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**FENCO
PLANT
CLOSING:**

Mayor Hontz said he received a letter from Ricardo Moreno of Torrence, California regarding the closing of the Fenco Plant at 202 East 7th Street in Watsontown. This plant closing is in accordance with the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, the WARN Act. They expect to layoff approximately 55 employees and the layoffs are expected to start in March 2013 and will conclude by the end of May 2013.

**WATERSHED
EDUCATION
and SOURCE
WATER
PROTECTION
GRANT:**

Mayor Hontz received information from Julie Kollar regarding available grants for Watershed Education and Source Water Protection. He will research this information for more details and grants can be awarded up to \$5000.00. It may benefit the Borough in the implementation in the Greenway Grant.

**APPOINTMENT
of JOSHUA
DREISBACH:**

Chief Dennis Derr said he had prepared a letter requesting the permanent appointment of Joshua Dreisbach to the Borough of Watsontown Police Department. He requested Officer Dreisbach’s appointment at the Borough Council Meeting on February 4, 2013.

**CIVIL
SERVICE
COMMISSION:**

Chief Derr said the Watsonstown Civil Service Commission recertified the approved list of applicants for police officer positions for another 12 months. These re-certifications will expire on January 31, 2014. Solicitor Tira said Council's approval should be put on the Agenda for the February 4, 2013 Borough Council Meeting.

**102 YEARS
SERVICE WITH
AUXILIARY
POLICE:**

Chief Derr said service awards are being presented to Robert Merrill, Chuck Burrows and Donny Laidacker for their 102 years of combined service to the Watsonstown Auxiliary Police. These awards will be presented at the February 4, 2013 Borough Council Meeting.

**CHEYENNE
ROSE TO BE
AWARDED:**

Chief Derr said at the same Borough Council Meeting, he'd like to present an award to a young lady who, on December 19, 2012, was walking by, heard a house alarm and investigated further. Due to her quick reaction, she saved a home from being destroyed by fire.

**GREENWAY
GRANT
AGREEMENT:**

Mayor Hontz said due to a decline in funds available, the Executive Director for SEDA COG recommended we pursue someone else for design services for the Greenway Grant. The Mayor has asked Thomas S. Grbenick, knowing he is local and interested in Watsonstown's project, to come up with a contract for design services. The basic contract was presented to Solicitor Tira for review. Per Solicitor Tira, a few things will need changed on the contract, such as final payment not being made until Council accepts the actual work. Solicitor Tira said basically this is redirecting our grant money and local match money from SEDA COG to Thomas S. Grbenick to do the design work only. This work will now be done privately, starting February 1, 2013 and completed by the end of summer. Edie said the Borough's share of \$5675.00 was included in the 2013 budget. A motion was made by Harry Hefty to sign the agreement with Thomas S. Grbneck. Ralph Young gave a second motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**1993 FORD
RANGER:**

Edie Moser has three quotes for salvage of the 1993 Ford Ranger:

1. Swartz's - \$336.60
2. Staimans - \$237.15
3. R&R Salvage - \$200.00

She is making the recommendation to Council to advertise the truck on Muncibid "as is". President Miller asked Edie to check into the fees associated with the website and have the information available for the Monday, February 4, 2013 Borough Council Meeting.

JES/VIC RACE:

President Miller said Council was in receipt of a letter from Suzie Watts and Shannon Hoffman regarding the JesVic 5K Race. This year marks the 7th annual race and will be held Saturday, June 1, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Jack Marshall to approve use of Watsonstown for the race. A second motion was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Phillips	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

CIVIL SERVICE RULES & REGULATIONS:

Edie Moser said a letter from the Watsonstown Civil Service was included in Council's packets. The letter is a request for Council's approval of the Watsonstown Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Solicitor Tira said he would review them.

CARNIVAL:

Edie said she received a letter from the Warrior Run Fire Department requesting use of the Watsonstown Park for their annual carnival. They would like to have use of the park from June 4 thru June 19, 2013. The actual carnival will be held June 10th thru June 15th, 2013. They have also requested the extension of curfew until midnight. A motion to approve the Warrior Run Fire Department's use of the Watsonstown Park was made by Ralph Young and a second was made by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BOROUGH & POLICE DEPARTMENT

Edie said the Borough and police department are required to upgrade to new radios, per compliance. The radios were included in the budget. An inventory was taken and it will take approximately \$6,000.00 to meet said compliance. The fines for non-compliance could be as high as \$10,000.00

RADIOS: per day. Edie said she will compile the information and include this on the agenda for the next Borough Council Meeting.

POLLY KEEFER'S RETIREMENT GIFT: Mayor Dave Hontz has agreed to look into a gift for Polly Keefer for her 24 years of service to the Borough of Watson town. The cost will be covered by the Borough, per Council.

4th of JULY FIREWORKS: Solicitor Tira said he reviewed and revised the contract from Hot Shotz for the 4th of July Fireworks. He said he was going to have President Miller sign and execute the contract so it could be returned to Mr. Sheetz this week.

SEWER EASEMENTS: Solicitor Tira said three of the remaining easements are going better than expected. The fourth is the Hackenberg easement, which was a formal easement but never recorded. A deed was given to the Borough but the Borough never had it recorded. Northumberland County said they would accept an affidavit from the Borough to allow us to record the easement. In order to get the easement recorded, Solicitor Tira wanted a motion authorizing Edie Moser to execute the affidavit regarding the Hackenberg easement. A motion was made by Harry Hefty and a second was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE: Solicitor Tira announced the Negotiating Committee would need to meet briefly after tonight's Committee Meeting in preparation for tomorrow's Negotiation Meeting.

THANK YOU FROM WABA: Edie Moser said a thank you card was received from WABA for setting up Santa's house, taking care of the deer pen and the crew feeding the deer.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: The Borough is in receipt of an invitation to the Joint Legislative Breakfast. Lou Barletta, Tom Marino and Pat Tomey have also been invited. It is Friday, February 15, 2013 at the Country Cupboard at 7:30 AM. Edie asked Council to let her know if they have interest in attending and she would RSVP. Jack Marshall, Ralph Young and Mayor Hontz said they would like to attend.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion made by Ralph Young to adjourn at 8:38 PM. A second was given by Mary Phillips.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer